

DRAFT

**HAWAI'I COASTAL AND ESTUARINE
LAND CONSERVATION PLAN**

June 2006



Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism



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Prepared for:

Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program
Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Coastal and estuarine areas in Hawai'i provide habitat for a diverse range of vegetation and wildlife, and contain numerous cultural, recreational, and historical resources that are valued by the Hawai'ian community, local residents, and visitors. Coastal and estuarine areas are also highly favored for development and this has created a host of inter-connected problems including: land conversion, habitat loss, industrial and agricultural pollution, erosion, and the over-exploitation of recreational areas. No point on the islands is more than 29 miles from shoreline and almost any land development activity can affect the integrity of coastal and estuarine resources.

In recognition of the need to provide long-term protection for significant coastal and estuarine resources, Congress created the [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#) in 2002. This initiative enables states to permanently protect coastal and estuarine lands by providing matching funds for community-based projects to acquire property from willing sellers (either in full or through conservation easements). Lands acquired through the program are owned by the state, local agencies or designated community groups, and in this manner the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program* shares similarities with the Federal Forest Legacy program in which Hawai'i has also been an active participant. Title or interests in properties purchased under the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program* are held in perpetuity by the award recipient, and public access is insured in the absence of legitimate environmental protection or public safety concerns.

To date all CELCP awards have been congressionally-directed, but National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is attempting to transform the program into a competitive format that will allocate funding

based upon a set of uniform evaluation criteria commencing in fiscal year 2007. In order to qualify for competitive funding under the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*, individual coastal states must meet specific eligibility requirements as outlined in guidelines prepared by NOAA. The preparation of an approved state *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* is the initial action that must take place. These state plans identify priority conservation needs and provide clear guidance for the process of nominating local coastal land conservation projects to the national competition. The *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* is being developed by the Department of Geography at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in conjunction with the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program. A *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Group* (see Appendix C) has also been created to provide public input and direction during the preparation of the state plan.



Coastal Development in East Honolulu

State plans are intended to be a concise documents that guide local participation in the national *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation*

Program. In keeping with guidelines developed by NOAA and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the Hawai'i plan will provide the following information:

- a definition of the geographic extent of coastal and estuarine areas within Hawai'i as defined for the purposes of the state plan;
- a description of the lands or values to be protected and the need for conservation through acquisition;
- a description of existing plans or programs that identify local conservation priorities and are supportive of the objectives of the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*;
- a list of state agencies, local agencies, or local community groups eligible to hold title to property acquired under the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*; and
- a description of public consultation and inter-agency coordination activities associated with the preparation of the state plan.

The development of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* will provide a framework for identifying coastal and estuarine land conservation priorities, and will define the state's process for preparing, evaluating and ranking qualified proposals that will be forwarded to the annual national funding competition administered by NOAA.

2.0 EXISTING CELCP PROJECTS IN HAWAI'I

A number of important coastal sites in the State of Hawai'i have recently been purchased for conservation purposes with the assistance of congressionally-directed CELCP funds. A brief description of these projects is provided below:

Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands

The 250 acre Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Reserve on Maui's north shore contains over 24 acres of spring-fed wetland, 103 acres of dune ecosystem, over 7000 feet of marine shoreline, and more than 8 acres of riparian habitat that supports native birds and vegetation. At least six endangered species have been observed on the site including the Hawai'ian Stilt and Coot, two endangered plants and two endangered insects.



Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Reserve

Nearly \$1 million in CELCP funds and \$1 million in USFW *Endangered Species Act* funds were combined with county, state and private contributions to purchase the site for \$4.8 million in 2003. The Maui Coastal Land Trust holds title to the property and is responsible for management and long-term stewardship. Maui County and the State of Hawaii also hold conservation easements on the property to assure protection of the site and its resources in perpetuity.

Mu'olea Point

Maui County took possession of the 70-acre Mu'olea Point on January 18, 2005 and designated the site as a permanent conservation area. The property was purchased for roughly \$4 million through a collaborative effort of federal, state and county governments and the local community. The Trust for Public Lands negotiated with the previous owners to hold the parcel off the market until funds could be raised for the purchase, and this included a \$2 million grant from the CELCP in 2003. The parcel is bordered by Alaaula Stream with native freshwater and estuarine species and contains Maui's last pure stand of Polynesian coconut palm. The shoreline of Mu'olea Point is a documented basking site for the rare Hawaiian Monk Seal and other parts of the property contain valuable historic, cultural and recreational resources. Located along the Hana Highway, Mu'olea Point is one of the few places that allows public access to the ocean along this section of steep and rugged coastline.

Pupukea-Paumalu Natural Area

The 20 year struggle to preserve the 1,129 acre Pupukea-Paumalu coastal property on Oahu's North Shore for conservation purposes was successfully completed in 2006. Through intensive collaboration and support from community and non-profit groups along with assistance from state, county and federal governments, the \$12 million purchase cost was raised and the land acquired from developers. The CELCP allocated \$2 million of the total project cost in 2004. Although Pupukea-Paumalu is located several hundred meters inland, its protection will preserve the water quality and the scenic beauty of world-famous coastal sites such as Sunset Beach, Rocky Point, Pipeline and Log Cabins. In addition, the purchase will protect native Hawai'ian plants and cultural sites, along with state water reserves and World War II historic resources that are also found on the property. Hiking

and educational opportunities will continue to be available for both local residents and visitors.

Honu'apo Estuary

The 225-acre Honu'apo parcel is located on the south shore of the Island of Hawai'i and was purchased by the County of Hawaii in early 2006 for a total cost of \$3.4 million. Total CELCP funding granted for this purchase was \$1.4 million. Honu'apo's tide pools and fish ponds represent important nursery habitat for fish and provide shelter from rough seas to the Hawai'ian Monk Seal and sea turtles. The site also contains habitat that supports native bird species such as the Pueo (Hawaiian owl) and wading birds such as the Haku'u (black-crowned night heron).



Honu'apo Estuary

Aside from possessing significant habitat and conservation values, preservation of the Honu'apo site also insures the protection of numerous cultural, historic, recreation and aesthetic values. The site was once a Hawaiian fishing village and is a favorite camping and fishing spot for local residents. Situated on a virtually uninhabited stretch of the Ka'u coastline, the parcel supports open space and scenic vista goals of both Hawai'i County and State of Hawaii.

Kilauea Bay

CELCP funding of \$1.5 million was granted in 2005 to support the purchase of a \$3 million parcel at Kilauea Bay on the north shore of Kauai. This 3-acre site is part of a long-term initiative known as the Kilauea Coastal Preservation and Restoration Project that is attempting to expand protected areas surrounding the 160-acre Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Lands acquired in areas surrounding the refuge will be transferred into local government ownership and managed cooperatively with government agencies and private groups such as the Kauai Public Land Trust. The Kilauea Bay site contains habitat that supports endangered species such as the Loulu Palm, Hawaiian Hoary Bat, Koloa Duck, and the Hawaiian Moorhen. The property is located on the lower reaches of the Kilauea River, and its acquisition insures the protection of the estuary from damage that could occur as a result of development on steep slopes that characterize portions of the site. Future restoration activities will address the presence of exotic species on the property and a re-vegetation program is planned utilizing native Hawaiian coastal and estuarine plants such as akia, ilima, naupaka.



Kilauea Bay and Estuary

3.0 IDENTIFICATION OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE AREAS

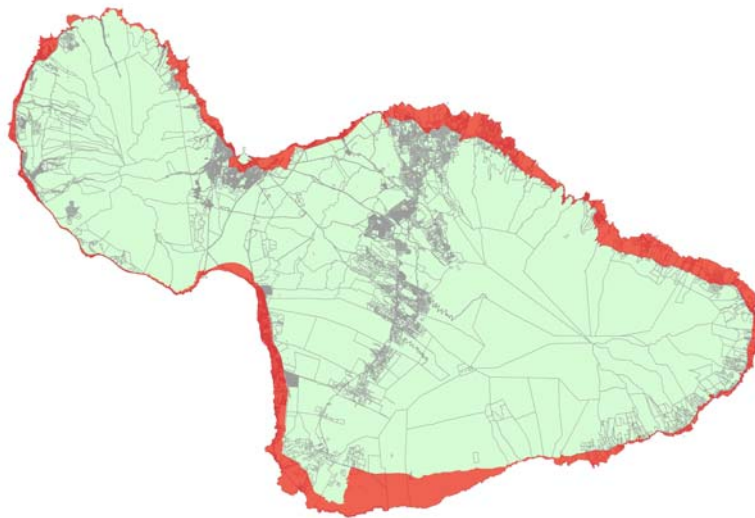
NOAA requires that the geographic extent of the coastal and estuarine areas included within the Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan be determined to provide a focus for assessing coastal conservation priorities within the state. Generally speaking the geographic scope of the state plan should be inclusive enough to provide a steady stream of high quality projects, but limits should be considered to insure that all proposed projects are competitive at the national level. This general objective is tempered by the fact that Hawaii is rich in diverse coastal and estuarine habitats and includes 8 major islands, 124 minor islands, and 750 miles of coastline (4th longest in the United States).



Kihei Coast, Maui

A holistic definition of the plan geographic scope is supported by the fact that 100 percent of the state is designated as "coastal" by the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program. This is sensible since no point on land within the state is further than 29 miles from the sea, and virtually every land use activity has the potential to impact coastal ecosystems. However, more restricted definitions of the coastal zone also exist since the

implementation of Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program heavily depends on local government participation. The practicalities of county land use planning and permitting processes necessitated the creation of a more limited functional definition of the coastal zone. [Special Management Areas \(SMA\)](#) were incorporated into the *Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Act*. These zones extend a minimum of 100 yards inland from the shoreline, but can extend further depending upon local characteristics (Figure 2). SMA include all lands and waters beginning at the shoreline and extending inland (mauka) 100 yards. In practice, many SMA are bounded by the high water mark and the nearest landward state highway, but counties have in many cases extended the SMA boundary landward beyond the state minimum requirements (Figure 2). SMA do not include any areas seaward (makai) of the shoreline because of state jurisdiction in these waters.



Maui Special Management Areas

[Shoreline Setback Areas \(SSA\)](#) are a subset of the Special Management Areas created to provide supplementary protection to the Hawai'ian coastline. SSA range from 25 feet to 150 feet inland from the shoreline and represent areas where additional attention must be paid to the

potential impacts of development. In particular, negative environmental and social impacts on drainage, view planes, historic and cultural artifacts, coastal erosion and access must be avoided, minimized or mitigated.

With respect to defining the geographic scope of coastal and estuarine areas eligible for participation in the CELCP, both exclusive and inclusive options were considered by the University of Hawai'i authors of this plan and the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Group*. Special Management Areas provide a potentially useful exclusive definition since these coastal lands generally experience the greatest developmental pressure and also are the focus of the most intense land conservation concerns within the state. However, given that SMA are limited in extent and boundaries generally do not consider ecological factors or the extent of coastal habitat features, the use of this exclusive definition could create an inappropriate limitation on potential project sites.

Allowing all lands within the state to be eligible for consideration as project sites represents an inclusive approach to the scope of the Hawai'i plan. This "all-island" definition would support the original holistic intent of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program and recognizes the intimate connection between shoreline environments and inland land uses within island ecosystems. The inclusive approach would also reinforce a growing interest in traditional [ahupua'a management](#) practices developed by the original Hawaiian inhabitants of the state. The ahupua'a concept is an ecosystem-based approach that shares certain similarities to watershed management within islands environments. It stresses the connectivity of natural resources and human activities from the mountains to the sea, and emphasizes culturally relevant techniques for controlling human behavior as a key component of effective resource management. The ahupua'a concept is gaining increasing support within Hawai'i as a sustainable system of island management that maintains the environmental integrity of upland and

coastal ecosystems while also supporting significant human populations. For these reasons the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Group* strongly supported an inclusive “all island” definition of the geographic scope of coastal and estuarine areas eligible for consideration in the state plan, but recognized that national program priorities that focus on shoreline environments must also be considered during the evaluation of project proposals.



4.0 RESOURCE VALUES TO BE PROTECTED

The coastal and estuarine resource values discussed below reflect local conditions and priorities, but are also clearly guided by national program criteria established by Congress and NOAA. In general, the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* emphasizes the protection of shoreline areas threatened by development and conversion to a non-natural state. Priority is allotted to ecologically significant lands that can be effectively managed or protected, and in particular, projects that advance the goals, objectives and implementation of existing land conservation programs already operating within the State of Hawai'i (see Section 5.0). Every project proposal must document the presence and significance of each of the following five resource values, but conserving lands with significant ecological and conservation values is the clear priority of both the national CELCP and this Hawai'i plan. Cultural, recreational and aesthetic values are important and can provide important secondary support for proposed projects, but proposals prepared under the Hawai'i plan must highlight conservation or ecological values to insure their competitiveness in the national selection process.

4.1 Ecological Values

Hawai'i's shoreline environments are subject to both terrestrial and marine influences and include dry, mesic and wet communities depending upon their location and orientation. Historically these areas have been subject to significant alteration by human activities and continue to be affected by land conversion as a result of residential construction, resort development and agriculture. Few undisturbed shorelines remain and in most cases it is difficult to imagine Hawai'i's coastal environment prior to human contact. Non-native species such as mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza* and *Rhizophora mangle*), pickleweed (*Batis maritima*), kiawe

(*Prosopis alata*), ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*) dominate undeveloped coastal sites, and introduced animals such as rats, cats, and mongooses endanger native wildlife populations. The protection of threatened habitats and indigenous flora or fauna represents the core objective of the national CELCP, and numerous areas are potentially eligible to participate in the program given the large number of threatened or endangered species in Hawai'i and the significant amount of habitat loss.



Kaena Point, O'ahu

Coastal areas are natural ecotones and are typically rich in both species numbers and habitat diversity as a result of the interaction of land and sea environments. For the purposes of this plan, the principal habitats of concern in Hawai'i's coastal and estuarine environment are: shoreline, wetland and adjacent coastal upland areas. Each of these habitats provide a key contribution to the ecological integrity of the overall coastal environment, and "ecological significance" is determined by the quality of existing natural habitats, the diversity of species present, and the existence of threatened or endangered species. Any proposed project submitted to the

Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program for evaluation as a nominee to the CELCP national competition must include one or more of these habitats to be eligible.

Shoreline habitats in an undisturbed state were once common in Hawai'i but are now increasingly rare as a result of sustained development pressures. This category includes areas directly adjacent to the sea such as beach or dune communities and anchialine ponds where fresh and saltwater mix through underground connections. Sand beaches are increasingly threatened in all parts of Hawai'i as a result of residential and recreational development, and human activities continue to impact the movement of sand and sustainability of shoreline habitats. Coastlines that possess natural vegetation such as naupaka kahakai (*Scaevola sericea*) and undisturbed dune vegetation are particularly rare. Retaining longer segments of undisturbed shoreline is essential to support long-term habitat viability and protect native coastal wildlife such as seabirds, migratory shorebirds, Hawaiian Monk Seals and the green sea turtle.

Coastal wetland habitats in Hawai'i are diverse and many inter-tidal estuaries have been lost to agricultural development in the past and residential development more recently. Sheltered coastal wetland in Hawai'i support numerous unique plant and animal communities, and species dependent on Hawai'ian estuaries are unusual in their ability to tolerate highly variable water quality conditions and significant sediment inputs. Upland freshwater wetlands in Hawai'i frequently grade into estuarine systems and provide a mix of habitats that support native species such as the opae 'oe ha'a (*Macrobrachium grandimanus*) which are estuarine-dependent for some portion of their lifecycle. Mullet, milkfish and nehu (*Encrasicholina purpurea*) are locally important marine species that rely on inter-tidal brackish areas, and coastal lagoons provide essential habitat for a wide range of shorebirds and other wetland fauna. Coastal wetlands also

provide prey organisms for many marine species inhabiting coral reef and other offshore habitats, and their role in maintaining nearshore water quality is under-appreciated. The buffering capacity of coastal wetlands protects coral reefs and other nearshore marine habitats from a variety of negative impacts such as sedimentation, excessive turbidity, and freshwater inputs produced by heavy rains.



Kawai Nui Marsh, Windward Oahu

Adjacent coastal upland habitats have not been exposed to the same level of development pressure as shorelines in Hawai'i, but these areas are also considered prime development sites. From an ecological perspective, adjacent uplands play both a direct and an indirect role in coastal conservation. Upland areas directly support a wide range of coastal flora and fauna, and also act as buffer zones that protect shoreline and wetland habitats. Intact upland riparian habitats can also limit the production non-point source pollutants that can severely degrade coastal water quality. Quite simply, healthy shorelines and wetlands require healthy adjacent uplands, and this concept is at the core of the ahupua'a resource

management system. Although adjacent upland habitats are relatively less threatened by development in the State of Hawai'i, intact areas can be considered as potential project sites on the basis of the important role these lands play as buffer zones protecting shoreline or wetland communities.

4.2 Conservation Values

A consideration of conservation values is important because limited funds are available for land acquisition and protection efforts must be concentrated on areas with the highest values. In a general sense, conservation value relates to the potential of any individual coastal land parcel to protect biodiversity as a individual entity or in combination with adjoining conservation lands such as natural area reserves, national parks, state parks, local protected areas or marine protected areas (MPA). The conservation significance of proposed projects can be determined by characterizing of sites as undisturbed habitat, core habitat, buffer zones, or in terms of connectivity to other important habitats.

Relatively few larger stretches of **undisturbed habitat** in coastal areas remain in Hawai'i, and these lands possess substantial conservation significance for the purposes of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*. Lands that represent **core habitats** for rare or endangered coastal fauna such as native seabirds, sea turtles, Hawaiian Monk Seal or vegetation communities such as the coastal dry shrublands are a priority as a result of the immediate need to protect these areas. Coastal lands situated immediately adjacent to undisturbed or core habitats can serve as **buffer zones**. Although buffer zones represent lower conservation values than undisturbed or core habitats, ecological benefits associated with these areas include providing a physical barrier to encroachment on core habitats, providing protection from storm damage, reducing edge effects, and improving the protection of highly mobile or migratory species. Upland

buffer zones can provide benefits from a water quality perspective as limiting the input of pollutants to freshwater stream can positively impact coastal waters. Lands that provide **connectivity** to existing protected areas in shoreline or adjacent coastal upland sites also possess conservation significance. Improving connectivity between conservation areas can reduce habitat fragmentation and enhance the preservation of biodiversity within the coastal environment.

4.3 Cultural Significance

Although cultural values are not focus of land conservation proposals developed under the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*, sites associated with pre-contact Hawai'i and the Hawai'ian kingdom are commonly found in coastal areas and the preservation of these resources is extremely important to both the native and non-native Hawai'ian communities. Cultural values may include lands used by native Hawai'ians for traditional practices such as hula halau, areas used by traditional medical practitioners, religious or spiritual sites that contain petroglyphs or heiau, landscape features held sacred by the Hawaiian people, and areas used for traditional food gathering activities such as op'i'i picking. Although ecological and conservation values are central to the national CELCP, the protection of Hawai'ian cultural values is compatible with program objectives and the presence of these resources can only enhance the overall potential of a proposed conservation site.



4.4 Recreational Significance

Coastal lands that are primarily used for active recreation are not eligible for funding under the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*, but certain recreational activities are compatible and can continue if these do not compromise conservation or ecological values. For example, lands adjacent to existing marine recreation areas could be protected while ensuring continued access to water-based recreational activities such as outrigger canoeing, kayaking, surfing, scuba diving or snorkeling. Low-impact non-consumptive land-based recreational activities such as beach use, hiking, picnicking or birding could also be viewed as compatible with CELCP objectives and provide additional support for a proposed conservation site.



4.5 Aesthetic Significance

Protecting open space and scenic vistas is an important objective of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*, and the preservation of aesthetically pleasing coastlines is important to the Hawai'ian economy which is highly dependent upon tourism. Hawaii is justifiably famous for its scenic coastal corridors, and the aesthetic qualities of its coastline has created a desirable tourist destination. Although aesthetic values are of secondary concern to the national CELCP, almost any undeveloped coastal site in the State of Hawai'i will also possess important visual or aesthetic qualities. Aesthetic values can, therefore, play a highly supportive role when building the case for a proposed conservation projects.

5.0 SUPPORTIVE PLANS AND PROGRAMS

NOAA guidelines for the CELCP require state plans to "...make use of work that has already been done". With this directive in mind, the following information identifies existing national, state and local initiatives that share conservation objectives with the national program. The project proposal development process envisioned for the Hawai'i plan recognizes that a significant amount of effort that has already been dedicated to identifying priority conservation sites within in the State of Hawai'i, and the following national, state, county and private initiatives represent potential partner programs or sources of information. This list is not intended to identify every plan or program associated with land conservation in the State of Hawai'i, but to outline key activities and possible relationships with existing conservation programs that are supportive of CELCP objectives. The following list provides a brief description of each plan or program and how these could potentially interact with the Hawai'i plan for the purpose of project site selection and proposal development.

5.1 Federal Government Plans and Programs

[United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program](#)

The mission of the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Coastal Program is to identify "important coastal resource problems and solutions and develop partnerships for on-the-ground conservation in high priority coastal areas". The Coastal Program focuses its efforts in bays, estuaries and watersheds to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats to support healthy coastal ecosystems. The program is guided by four goals: 1) serving coastal communities by providing assessment and planning tools to identify priority habitats that should be protected and restored; 2) conserving pristine coastal habitats through the support of locally-initiated conservation efforts; 3) restoring degraded coastal wetland, upland, and stream habitats by

working with partners to implement on-the-ground projects; and 4) focusing resources through conservation alliances that leverage the financial and technical resources of our partners and multiply the impact of the taxpayer's dollar. The USFWS Coastal Program's focus on identifying priority habitats and creating partnerships for conservation purposes is consistent with the objectives of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*, and existing Coastal Program projects may provide important information and partnerships for proposed Hawai'i conservation projects and participants.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

The *Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act* established the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) to acquire, restore and enhance wetlands in the coastal United States and the Trust Territories. This program is active in Hawaii and has helped to protect or conserve several key wetland habitats within the state. The program shares similar conservation goals with the CELCP, and coastal wetland projects submitted under the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* should identify unprotected areas identified as high priorities sites by the NCWCGP or lands adjacent to existing NCWCGP projects.

Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

The Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCR) is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a sub-account of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. The primary focus of the program is to preserve, protect and restore wildlife through habitat management, population management, surveys, research, and public education. Administration at the state level is through Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources and its relation to the CELCP will be discussed in the State Plans and Programs section located below.

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) a federal program in partnership with state governments that supports local efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. Designed to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands, the FLP is an entirely voluntary program that focuses on the acquisition of partial interest in property to maximize public benefits. The FLP assists states in the development and implementation of forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports the acquisition of conservation easements and other agreements that control land use without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development or require sustainable forestry practices to protect forest values. Although the FLP mainly focuses on upland areas, it does identify several coastal forest sites with significant conservational potential. These areas could potentially represent key habitat acquisitions or function as buffer zones that limit downstream impacts on existing shoreline or estuarine conservation areas.



Napali Coast, Kaua'i

5.2 State Government Plans and Programs

5.2.1 [Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program](#)

As lead agency for the purposes of the Hawai'i CELCP (see Section 6.1) the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program is responsible for both administration and integration of this plan with the objectives of Hawai'i's *Coastal Zone Management Act* and other existing coastal projects. Current initiatives that may interact with the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* include the Waianae Ecological Characterization Project, Coastal Hazards Initiatives, and the Ocean Resource Management Plan which are described below. The program also maintains the [Hawaii Statewide GIS Program](#) that provides free online data and a simple mapping tool for viewing environmental, land use, zoning, and other socio-economic data for each county in the State of Hawai'i (see Appendix A).

[Waianae Ecological Characterization](#)

The Waianae Ecological Characterization is a groundbreaking attempt at managing cumulative and secondary environmental effects by creating a modern form of the ahupua'a land management system. This management approach seeks to enhance the effectiveness of the existing coastal zone program by administering management activities at the community level. The ahupua'a approach is broadly similar to a watershed management in that it utilizes an ecological unit that encompasses an entire island watershed from mountains to the sea, but it also includes cultural and administrative components that are unique to Hawai'i. The HCZMP recognizes that ahupua'a management can increase public involvement in local watershed issues and will provide communities with the opportunity to play a larger role in the natural resource planning. As the concept develops and is applied to other ahupua'a, the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land*

Conservation Plan may represent a valuable partner for communities attempting to conserve coastal lands within their ahupua'a.

Coastal Hazards

Hawaii's coastline are threatened by a range of coastal hazards ranging from coastal erosion to tsunamis and hurricanes. Shoreline erosion is particularly relevant to the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* as this process could affect land purchased under the program over time. A series of special investigations have been prepared under the auspices of the HCZMP including the Oahu Shoreline Study, Kauai Shoreline Erosion Management Study, Hawaii Shoreline Erosion Management Study, Erosion Management Program Recommendations for Hawai'i, and Aerial Photograph Analysis of Coastal Erosion on the Islands of Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Maui and Hawai'i. These reports provide information on beach management alternatives, critical erosion location, and erosion trends that could be highly useful for proponents developing CELCP proposals in shoreline locations.

Ocean Resource Management Plan

The Hawai'i Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP) sets forth guiding principles and recommendations for achieving comprehensive and integrated ocean and coastal resources management. An update to the ORMP is currently underway and will include recommendations for a new governance structure, a comprehensive management system, and a series of policies and implementing actions for ten resource sectors including coastal lands. The ORMP update will relate to the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* by providing state-wide guidance on the use of ocean and coastal resources and proponents should be aware of ORMP priorities.

5.2.2 Department of Land and Natural Resources

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is responsible for the management of conservation lands in the State of Hawai'i. Given this responsibility the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* could potentially interact with numerous existing conservation programs administered by this department. A brief discussion of several important DLNR initiatives is provided below.

Natural Area Partnership Program

The Natural Area Partnership Program (NAPP) was established in 1991 by the State of Hawai'i Legislature and the Governor. It authorizes the DLNR to "provide state funds for the management of private lands dedicated to conservation". Lands and waters that qualify for the program include areas with intact native Hawaiian ecosystems, essential habitat for endangered species, and Conservation District lands within the protective (P) sub-zone designation. The NAPP can support a wide range of management activities to protect, restore or enhance significant native natural resources, and significant potential exists to integrate this program with the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* to maximize overall conservation benefits within the state.

Hawaii Natural Area Reserve System

The Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) is administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The reserve system is based on the concept of protecting ecosystems, not just single species, and includes a diverse array of habitats including marine and coastal environments, lava flows, tropical rainforests, and alpine deserts. Management and control of non-native plants and animals that threaten natural biota in the reserves is a priority of the NARS. As with the Natural Areas Partnership Program, the integration of *Hawai'i Coastal and*

Estuarine Land Conservation Plan and NARS objectives could maximize overall conservation benefits and a strong linkage between the two programs is encouraged.

Hawai'i Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The recently completed Hawaii's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) can play an collaborative role with the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*. This document was prepared as a condition of state participation in the USFWS Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and was completed in October 2005. This strategy provides a thorough review of current wildlife and habitat conservation issues in the State of Hawai'i and provides an exhaustive review of existing conservation agencies and programs. The CWCS also provides a valuable inventory of animal species of greatest conservational need and their associated habitats for all the major Hawaiian islands. Additionally the CWCS identifies land areas on each island that are not protected, but are considered to possess high conservation potential. This comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy represents a critical data source for CELCP project proponents who should refer to this information during the proposal preparation stage. Proponents that build upon the complimentary nature of the CWCS and the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* will produce proposals that focus on protecting high quality coastal habitat and the threatened species that depend upon these areas.

Hawaii's Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Hawaii's Statewide Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy (SAWCS) is based on the CWCS and was jointly developed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Division of Aquatic Resources. The purpose of the program is to develop a comprehensive planning process for aquatic resource managers that recognizes the unique needs of Hawai'i's aquatic

species. CELCP proposals that recognize and attempt to integrate with both the SWAWCS and the CWCS will maximize conservation benefits and insure that nearshore aquatic species and ecosystems are protected.

Watershed Partnership Program

Watershed partnerships are voluntary alliances of public and private landowners in Hawai'i committed to the common goal of protecting larger forested areas for water recharge and other values. Eight watershed partnerships have been established covering more than 200,000 acres and others are in the works. Existing watershed partnerships include: East and West Maui, Ko'olau on Oahu, Lana'i Hale and East Moloka'i, Leeward Haleakala, Ola'a Kilauea, and Kaua'i. Other projects have focused on alien species control and fencing, but these partnerships have been allocated limited funding to this point in time. Although the Watershed Partnership Program mainly focuses mainly on upland mauka areas, this program is linked to coastal lands through the management of Streamside Management Zones (SMZs). Conservation of riparian lands and vegetation is critical to the long-term preservation of coastal ecosystem receiving runoff from upland areas. In case where upland management is key to the maintenance of coastal environmental quality, a linkage between *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan* and the Watershed Partnership Program could take the form of a proposal to protect riparian buffer zones.

5.2.3 Hawai'i Legacy Lands Act

House Bill 1308 CD1 (Legacy Lands Act) was passed in 2005 and establishes a permanent fund for land conservation and the preservation of open space and scenic resources in Hawai'i. Specific projects eligible for funding can include: coastal preservation, parks, habitat protection, watershed protection, flood prevention, cultural preservation and agricultural production. A conveyance tax will provide funding and ten percent of the

program's annual budget (approximately \$3.6 million) will be directed into a Legacy Lands Fund. This fund will be administered by the state DLNR and lands will be acquired on the basis of recommendations from state or county agencies and local conservation groups. Twenty-five percent of the program's annual budget (\$9 million per year) will be allocated to the Natural Area Reserve Fund to assist the Natural Area Reserve System in protecting critical habitat, endangered species and valuable cultural resources on publicly owned and ceded lands. The Legacy Lands Fund represents an important sources of matching funds for conservation proposals developed under the CELCP, and could also potentially support long-term management activities on lands acquired under the program.



Mokulua, Windward O'ahu

5.3 County Government Plans and Programs

County General Plans are developed by each of Hawai'i's four counties to guide local land use decisions, to communicate local conservation objectives, and manage development concerns. Given the focus on individual properties within proposals prepared under the CELCP, Community Plans

developed by each county to address local planning issues are likely to be of more relevance. Both the General Plans and Community Plans are potentially useful sources of information concerning land ownership and zoning for project proponents, and links to these documents in each of Hawai'i's four counties are located in Appendix B.

County governments have also created several specific natural resource preservation programs that are of particular relevance to the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*. The [Kaua'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission](#) is responsible for preparing an annual report and recommendations for Kaua'i Council that guides the use of county funds for the acquisition of lands or interest in lands with important conservation attributes. A similar program is also in place on the Island of Hawai'i where the [Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resource Preservation Commission](#) is responsible for developing a prioritized list of lands worthy of preservation. Maui County has taken a slightly different path to administering their Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund. Maui County has worked closely with local private conservation groups on identifying coastal conservation objectives and successfully completing several smaller coastal conservation projects in recent years. The county is also taking a similar approach on larger future initiatives such as the [Pali-to-Puamana Coastal Parkway](#). The City and County of Honolulu has developed a proposed charter amendment in 2006 to set aside one-half percent of real property tax revenues on an annual basis to protect coastal areas, watersheds, drinking water sources, native forests, agricultural lands, parks and recreation areas, open space, cultural and historical sites. The protection of significant scenic values, natural areas and public access to shoreline areas on Island of O'ahu is also guided by the preparation of local [Sustainable Communities Plans](#). All of the initiatives described above provide

valuable community input on local land conservation priorities and represent potential sources of matching funds for property acquisitions proposals on O'ahu developed under the CELCP.

5.4 Private Conservation Organizations

Private organizations are extremely active on conservation projects within Hawai'i and frequently play a pivotal role in the acquisition and management of coastal conservation sites. For this reason a list of private conservation groups that have been active in coastal land conservation or have participated in recent CELCP funded projects is provided below.

[The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i](#)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is one of the largest and most active conservation organizations in the country. The Hawai'i Chapter's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life in the state by protecting the lands and waters needed to survive. TNC Hawaii has worked together with its members and conservation partners to help protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. TNC Hawaii is currently working on projects on all of Hawaii's major islands, and provides public outreach services and volunteer opportunities throughout the state.

[The Trust for Public Lands](#)

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural areas, and other natural places to ensure livable communities for generations to come. TPL has been instrumental in establishing many new conservation areas in Hawaii, including CELCP funded projects such as Honu'apo on the Big Island, Mu'olea Point on Maui, and the

Pupukea-Paumalu site on Oahu. TPL has also provided important financial support for holding properties off the market while state, county and private funds are raised for purchase.

Maui Coastal Land Trust

The Maui Coastal Land Trust's mission is to acquire, preserve, and protect coastal lands in Maui Nui (the islands of County of Maui) for the integrity of the natural environment and the enjoyment of current and future generations. The organization has been instrumental in establishing important coastal conservation projects including the CELCP funded Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Reserve.

Kaua'i Public Land Trust

The Kauai Public Land Trust (KPLT) was founded in 1988 and actively pursues conservation goals on the island of Kaua'i through purchases, conservation easements, or outright gifts. KPLT has been successful in securing lands for long term conservation purposes and has recently participated in the CELCP funded Kilauea Bay property. The parcel was secured through public-private sector partnership for addition to the adjacent Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge.

North Shore Community Land Trust

The North Shore Community Land Trust (NSCLT) is a nonprofit land trust that protects the special natural areas of the north shore of O'ahu through voluntary land conservation. Their most recent and highly publicized activity was the major role they have played in securing the funds for acquisition of the 1129 acre Pupukea-Paumalu parcel adjacent to Oahu's famous north shore beach areas.

Hawai'i Island Land Trust

The Hawaii Island Land Trust (HILT) seeks to facilitate the preservation and stewardship of open space, environmentally sensitive lands, and culturally significant areas for present and future generations. Though the group is relatively new (it was formed in 2002) it functions in much the same manner as the Maui Coastal Land Trust and the Kauai Public Land Trust.

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

As the official representative agency for indigenous Hawaiians, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) invests significant resources in programs, services and advocacy for benefit of the Native Hawaiian community. OHA programs are wide ranging (including education, culture, governance, planning, historic preservation, and economic development) and recent OHA involvement in land conservation purposes include CELCP funded projects such as the Mu'olea Point project on Maui, and the incomplete purchase of the 25,855-acre Wao Kele O Puna parcel on the Island of Hawai'i.

Historic Hawaii Foundation

The Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a private, nonprofit statewide organization dedicated to the preservation of historic and archaeological sites, objects and cultural traditions of the state. Historic Hawai'i Foundation has become the leading advocate for preservation, heritage education and cultural tourism Hawai'i, and is actively engaged in statewide preservation efforts. It presents a powerful, visible and diverse force encouraging respect for the history and cultural heritage of the Hawai'ian Islands.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

6.1 State Lead Agency

NOAA guidelines require a state lead agency to be responsible for soliciting qualified conservation proposals, reviewing these documents for completeness, prioritizing proposals according to state criteria, and nominating qualified projects to the national competition. This model assumes substantial control at the state agency level, but significant flexibility exists with respect to the relationship between the lead agency and local partners. A consensus was reached at the initial meeting of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee* that the lead agency for the purposes of the administering the CELCP in Hawai'i would be the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program. The program is situated within the Office of Planning in the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and was created in 1977 through the passage of Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 205A. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program operates within a framework of cooperation among federal, state and local agencies and public advisory groups to address coastal issues and uphold environmental law through a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory techniques.

6.2 Agencies And Organizations Eligible to Hold Land Title

NOAA can make financial awards to the lead agency in the State of Hawai'i for the purposes of implementing the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*. The lead agency can then allocate grants or make sub-awards to other state agencies or local governments as defined under 15 CFR 24.3 or entities eligible for assistance under section 306A(e) of the CZMA (16 USC 1455a(e)). NOAA can also make grants directly available to any of these eligible entities at its discretion and in consultation with the lead agency to expedite completion of an approved project. Only state or

local governmental agencies are eligible to hold title to lands acquired under the existing program guidelines unless directed by Congress, and designated entities will hold title to the land (or interests in land) in perpetuity. Eligible organizations in Hawai'i include state agencies such as the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, various office located within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and individual local government agencies such as any county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, council of government, or regional government entity. NOAA can award CELCP grants to a person, private organization, non-profit entity, or non-governmental group with congressional approval, and revisions that would enhance its ability to make this type of award are under consideration. If approved these changes would allow non-governmental organizations such as 501(c)(3) non-profit groups to submit project proposals, receive financial awards and hold title under the competitive element of the CELCP.

6.3 Eligible and Ineligible Use of Program Funds

The purpose of CELCP is to acquire properties or interests in properties from willing sellers, and the terms and conditions of the acquisition must ensure that the property will be administered for conservation purposes in perpetuity. Activities consistent with program objectives include: resource protection, restoration and enhancement, recreation, research and education. To be eligible for funding a project must:

- be located in a coastal or estuarine area deemed eligible within an approved state *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*,
- meet criteria outlined in the national CELCP guidelines,
- match federal program funds with non-federal funds at a ratio of 1:1,

- be held in public or approved private ownership (fee simple or conservation easements),
- provide conservation in perpetuity, and
- provide access to the general public as appropriate and consistent with protection of project lands.

Each project must also develop a strategy for long-term stewardship that identifies the entity or entities responsible for on-going conservation management. Activities inconsistent with program objectives include: agriculture, aquaculture, shoreline armoring, construction of most roads, buildings or facilities (except to support conservation activities) and active recreation facilities. The federal share of program funds cannot be used for funding long-term operations, maintenance or management of land, construction (buildings, boat launches, docks or piers) shoreline armoring, or other acquisitions that completely restrict access. Acquisitions are not allowed for the sole purpose of complying with habitat mitigation requirements resulting from agency, corporate or individual actions, or for the primary purpose of enforcing fish, wildlife, or other regulations. Land acquisitions for active recreation such as sports facilities, water parks or playgrounds are not allowed. Federal funds, funds previously used or proposed for use to match another federal grant, and mitigation funds are not allowable sources of matching funds for program purposes.

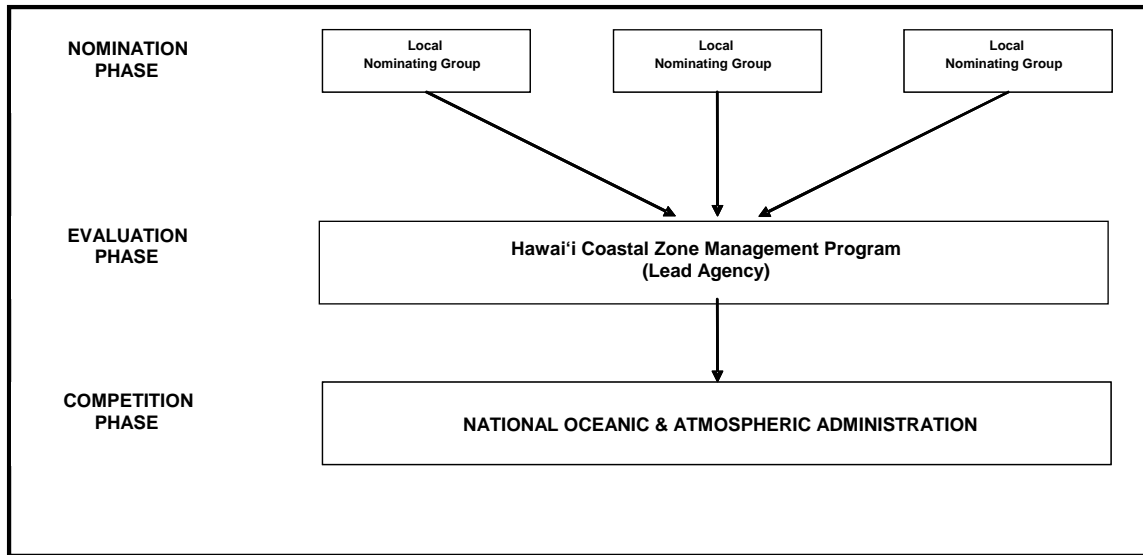
6.4 Project Review Process

Two models were discussed at the first meeting of the Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee on November 30, 2005 to facilitate the project review process at the state level. The first option was a "lead agency" model where the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program would both receive and review proposed projects.

Potential benefits of the “lead agency” model could include program consistency and the availability of state resources to support the evaluation of proposals. Drawbacks of this approach could include reduced local support for project applicants and the potential loss of an opportunity to enhance coastal land conservation within local land use planning processes.

The second option for project evaluation was “local” model with each county taking the responsibility for reviewing and subsequently nominating projects that would be forwarded to the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program for nomination to the national competition. Benefits associated with the “local” model could include enhanced local participation in the program and the potential for improved integration of coastal land conservation into local land use planning systems. Potential drawbacks could include the availability of adequate county staff and resources to manage the annual review of CELCP project proposals.

After a discussion of the relative merits of each approach with the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee*, it was agreed that the “lead agency” model was preferred. Project proposals developed by local partners would be forwarded prior to a specified deadline to the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program for evaluation and ranking. State and county agencies such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources are expected to work closely with local partners such as *The Nature Conservancy*, *The Maui Coastal Land Trust*, and *Trust For Public Lands* to prepare high quality proposals that would be submitted to the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program for review prior to their consideration for submission to the national competition.



Relationship Between the Lead Agency and CELCP Partners

6.4.1 Project Solicitation

The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program will solicit CELCP proposals after notification from NOAA that funds are available for projects under the competitive grants program. A list of agencies, organizations or individuals interested in coastal land conservation should be developed to facilitate these solicitations, and application instructions should be developed using information contained in this plan. Application instructions should describe the CELCP guidelines, applicant and project eligibility criteria, project information requirements, and the proposal review process. A contact list of state and local government staff or private organizations familiar with the CELCP and proposal development should also be included in the solicitation to assist new participants in successfully completing the application process.

6.4.2 Project Submission and Evaluation

All project proposals received by the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program prior to the specified submission deadline will be

assessed for completeness and compliance with the CELCP eligibility criteria. Proposals will also be reviewed to insure the mandatory existence of a willing seller and existing property owners must understand any conservation restrictions or easement concepts being proposed. The appropriateness of designated matching funds will be assessed to insure that these are reasonable, available within the performance period, and consistent with CELCP guidelines that recognize cash contributions, donated land or land value from properties with similar coastal or estuarine attributes, or in-kind services such as restoration. Costs associated with executing the land transaction (e.g., appraisal, title opinion, site assessment) must be reasonable and funds allocated for salaries and fringe benefits can be only be allocated for personnel directly involved in implementing the proposed project. Land acquisition costs must be based on an independent appraisal or other assessment of fair market value. Incomplete proposals or applications that do not meet program eligibility criteria will not be included in the project evaluation process as described below. Applicants will be notified in writing of a negative determination as soon as possible, and this notification should describe proposal deficiencies to allow applicants to re-submit if the solicitation has not closed.

After the proposal submission closing date has passed, the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program will nominate a *Peer Review Committee* to be charged with the evaluation and ranking of all acceptable proposal submitted to the open round of CELCP competitive funding. The *Peer Review Committee* should include members from relevant state and county agencies and from local land conservation groups, but in no case should any individual directly associated with a current proposal be included to avoid conflict of interest. Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program staff should provide the review committee with copies of each proposal and specific instructions regarding review criteria, scoring and ranking. Committee members will then

assess the merits of each proposal individually and score projects based on the evaluation guidance outlined in Section 7.0 of this document. All evaluation decisions must be based solely on information contained in the written project proposals submitted by applicants.

After committee members have completed their individual assessments, the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program will convene meeting of the full *Peer Review Committee* at its offices in Honolulu. At this meeting the review committee members will discuss their individual assessments, address any inconsistencies or errors, and attempt to develop a consensus ranking of the proposals under consideration. If a consensus ranking cannot be agreed upon by the *Peer Review Committee* at this meeting, project proposals will be ranked according to the combined total point awarded by each individual reviewer. In either case, a ranked list of all proposals from highest to lowest and a copy of all evaluation comments will be forwarded to the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program which will certify the evaluation process and final results.

6.4.3 Selection for the National Competition

After the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program has certified the recommendations of the *Peer Review Committee*, ranked project proposals and all necessary supporting materials will be forwarded to NOAA for the CELCP national competition. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program may forward the single highest ranked proposal or any number of proposals based on NOAA guidelines and the amount of funding allocated to the competitive grants program for the relevant fiscal year. Applicants selected to proceed to the national competition will be notified and instructed to provide any additional information required to support their proposals.

7.0 GUIDANCE FOR PROJECT EVALUATION

As outlined in Section 3.0 and Section 4.0 of this plan, all lands within Hawai'i are deemed eligible for CELCP funding, but priority is allotted to ecologically significant shoreline habitats, coastal wetlands, and adjacent coastal upland areas that can be effectively managed and advance the goals or priorities of land conservation programs currently operating within the state. The evaluation guidance provided below support the emphasis on specific coastal habitats and reflects criteria used by NOAA to rank project proposals at the CELCP national competition. Resource values represent the most important single criteria in the evaluation guidance, but the suitability of long-term management plans, qualifications of the applicant, and the existing threat of conversion are also considered. These evaluation criteria are intended to be used by the *Peer Review Committee* (described in Section 6.4.2) during its evaluation of project proposals, and provide the basis for ranking proposals in terms of overall conservation merit. Financial aspects are considered during the preliminary review proposed projects conducted by the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program after submission.

I) Project Resource Values (70 points)

Ecological Values (25 points)

Referees must assign priority to shoreline habitats, coastal wetlands, and adjacent coastal upland areas during their consideration of ecological values. Referees should evaluate the degree that projects contain intact natural habitats and examples of exceptional species diversity. Referees should also consider the occurrence of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered vegetation, and whether plant species that are native or endemic to the Hawai'ian Islands are represented on the site. The existence of native or endemic wildlife or fish species and the presence of federal or state-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or fish species must also be

considered. Lands that possess intact ecological values are favored over properties that require significant restoration or remediation. The presence of invasive or exotic species should be minimal or easily managed. Coastal erosion is an increasingly serious concern in Hawai'i, and proposals that include shoreline habitat must provide an evaluation of the potential impacts of coastal erosion on the long-term conservation of project lands.

Conservation Values (25 points)

The evaluation of conservation values must consider the ability of proposed projects to protect biodiversity as a individual entity or in combination with adjoining conservation lands such as natural area reserves, national parks, state parks, local protected areas or marine protected areas. Surrounding land uses should be compatible with long-term conservation of the site's resource values. Referees should consider whether a project represents a keystone acquisition within a larger conservation plan, or if the project directly supports the priorities and objectives of any country, state or federal land conservation initiative. Proposed projects should provide core habitat for rare or endangered coastal flora and fauna, or be situated immediately adjacent to important conservation areas to serve as buffer zones. Other conservation values to consider include the ability of a proposed project to provide connective habitats, corridors, habitat linkages and other means of reducing biological isolation.

Cultural Values (10 points)

Cultural values may include the presence of a registered archeological site or the documented use of lands by native Hawai'ians for traditional cultural activities such as hula halau and other customary practices. Also of significance are areas used by traditional medical practitioners, religious or spiritual sites that contain petroglyphs, heiau or pu'uhonua, landscape features held sacred by the Hawaiian people, and coastal areas used for

traditional food gathering activities. The existence of features designated as National Historic Landmarks or listed on a Register of Historic Places should also be recognized by referees in their evaluation of cultural values.

Recreation and Aesthetic Values (10 points)

The evaluation of aesthetic values should consider the existence of vistas that complement existing scenic byway or trail programs. Project sites that are within the viewshed of populated areas, visible from heavily utilized roadways, or identified as a scenic resource by a tourism or community land use plan are also be considered to possess significant aesthetic values. With respect to recreation values, referees should consider whether the proposed project site provides public access to coastal areas or opportunities for low-impact non-consumptive land-based recreational activities such as beach use, hiking, picnicking, nature study or birding. Lands adjacent to existing marine recreation areas also possess recreational values by providing access to water-based activities such as outrigger canoeing, kayaking, surfing, scuba diving or snorkeling.

II) Long-Term Management Plan (10 points)

The evaluation of the long-term management plan must consider specific strategies that are proposed to conserve and/or restore the ecological, conservation, cultural, recreation and aesthetic values that form the primary justification for the proposed project. Referee's must assess whether the proposed management plan is technically sound, possesses innovative strategies for achieving conservation goals, and can be executed by the applicant within the performance period. Other factors to consider include whether the management plan provides for the continuation of traditional practices that are consistent with CELCP objectives, and whether other public or private sector partners are willing to provide long-term management support.

III) Qualifications of the Applicant (10 points)

Referees must consider whether the applicant possesses the capacity and experience to execute the proposed land transaction and manage the property in a manner consistent with the long-term conservation of identified resource values. Factors to consider include the applicant's experience with previous land conservation projects or long-term resource stewardship initiatives, and whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities and administrative resources to accomplish the proposed project. The applicant will be evaluated in terms of their capacity to complete the acquisition and manage property consistent with CELCP guidelines and state coastal zone management program policies.

IV) Threat of Conversion (10 points)

Referees must consider the degree that the property is threatened by conversion from its existing state to uses which are inconsistent with the long-term conservation of existing ecological and conservation values. A significant threat of conversion is represented by the existence of an approved development plan or a standing offer to purchase the property for non-conservation purposes. A moderate threat of conversion could involve the property being situated in close proximity to other developments, the property being listed for sale, or the existence of an approved development plan for the site. A low threat of conversion could entail a lack of development approvals, local development trends that do not indicate a significant impending threats, or sites that are not readily developable because of factors such as the presence of wetlands, steep slopes or access issues.

7.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

A *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee* was organized to advise the authors of this document and the lead agency (Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program) on the preparation of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*. The committee includes representatives from:

- each of the four County Planning Departments,
- private land conservation organizations,
- a respected Native Hawai'ian Practitioner,
- Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program, and
- State Department of Lands and Natural Resources,



Public participation and inter-agency cooperation was built through Advisory Committee meetings, a website specifically devoted to the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan*, and public presentations in each of the four counties. These presentations were arranged in consultation with advisory committee members, and for the most part, coincided with public meetings of Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commissions within each county. This strategy was used to build agency and public knowledge of the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program* and to draw upon the shared goals and interests of this project and these public commissions. A list of the *Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee* members is provided in Appendix C and public consultation events are outlined in Appendix D.

APPENDIX A: COASTAL DATA RESOURCES

The [Hawaii Statewide GIS Program](#) provides free online GIS data and mapping tools for viewing environmental data for each county in the State of Hawai'i. The Statewide GIS Program can locate coastal land parcels containing native and endangered floral and fauna, as well as key wetland areas in areas zoned for development. This program also offers downloadable GIS data that identifies information such as land use and zoning within each county.

Maps from Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

[State Land Use Boundary Maps](#)

[Landownership Maps](#)

[Land Study Bureau Maps](#)

[Agricultural Lands of Importance to the State of Hawaii](#)

[Watershed Boundaries](#)

[Land Reserves Maps](#)

Public Data on [I-Map Hawaii](#) (an easy to use online map viewer)

[All Downloadable Data Layers](#)

[Coastal and Marine Data](#)

[Natural Resource and Environmental Data](#)

[Political Boundaries and Administrative Data](#)

APPENDIX B: COUNTY AND COMMUNITY PLANS

County General Plans

[Kaua'i General Plan](#)

[Oahu General Plan](#)

[Maui General Plan](#)

[Hawai'i General Plan](#)

Community Plans

[City and County of Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plans](#)

[Maui County Community Plans](#)

[Hawaii County Regional And Community Plans](#)

[Kaua'i County Planning](#)

APPENDIX C: ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Maui County Planning Department
Wailuku, Maui

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Eileen Mark
City and County of Honolulu Planning Department
Honolulu, Oahu

Hannah Springer
Hawai`ian Native Cultural Practitioner
Waikoloa, Hawaii

Doug Tom
Hawai`i Coastal Zone Management Program
Honolulu, Oahu

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

Hawai'i Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
State Office of Planning
Honolulu, Oahu

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Public presentation at a meeting of the Kaua'i County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission
Līhu'e Civic Center
Līhu'e, Kaua'i

Friday, May 26, 2006

Presentation to Maui County planning staff and the general public
Conference Room # 219 at One Main Plaza
Waipahu, Maui

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

Public presentation at a meeting of the Hawai'i County Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
Hilo Lagoon Center
Hilo, Hawai'i

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

Meeting with Land and Asset Management staff
Parker Ranch
Waimea, Hawai'i

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

Presentation to Hawai'i County planning staff and the general public
Mayor's Conference Room at Hanama Place
Hilo, Hawai'i

Wednesday, June 30, 2006

Presentation to City and County of Honolulu planning staff
Department of Permitting & Planning Offices
Honolulu, Hawai'i